

Appendix 6: Natural Heritage Hotspot analysis.

Process

Each Heritage tracked element (species and natural community) was given a weight of 1-5 based on its rarity and priority in the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project planning process. The GIS theme of Section boundaries was used as the planning grid. Each Section (square mile) was assigned the summed weights of all the occurrences of species and communities within that section. Only occurrences with a date of 1980 or later were used in the analysis. Scores were classified into 5 categories and each assigned a different color in GIS to visually depict areas with the highest concentrations of highly weighted elements.

Number of species in the analysis: 491

Species occurrence records used: 6,194

Number of community types in the analysis: 67

Community occurrence records used: 1,385

Weights:

- 5 Tier I species (G1-G3, Listed, declining, endemic), S1-S3 communities
- 4 S1 species (G4 or G5, not included above), S4-S5 communities
- 3 S2 species (G4 or G5, not included above)
- 2 S3 species (G4 or G5, not included above)
- 1 S4 species (G4 or G5, not included above)

Map classes:

<u>Score</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Comment</u>
1-3	blue	One S2-S4 species occurrence (no Tier I species or communities)
4-5	green	Typically one Tier I or S1 species or one community occurrence
6-15	yellow	At least two elements
16-25	orange	At least four elements
26-83	red	At least six elements